(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) The Government has allocated Rs. 3500 crores for Accelerated Power Development Reforms Programme (APDRP) for the year 2004-05 *i.e.* Rs. 1750 crores under investment component and Rs. 1750 crores under incentive component for upgradation and strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution system network in the States with a view to reduce the transmission, distribution and commercial losses. Since year 2002-03, the Government has sanctioned projects amounting to Rs. 17,619.07 crores under APDRP out of which APDRP component is Rs. 10,096.11 crores including those sanctioned in 2004-05.

(c) and (d) During the current financial year 2004-05, the Government has sanctioned sub-transmission and distribution projects amounting to Rs. 1008.88 crores to various states.

Free electricity to farmers

43. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent ASSOCHAM Report saying that the cost of free electricity given to farmers by different State Boards in Rs. 20,000 crore over last five years is true; and

(b) if so, how does the Government propose to recover the loss thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) According to a press release of Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industries of India (ASSOCHAM), the power tariff subsidy granted to the agriculture sector has eroded the revenues of State Electricity Board to the extent of around Rs. 20,000 crores in the last five years. Basis of this assessment is not available in this communication.

(b) The Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) have the powers to fix tariff for sale of electricity to consumers taking into account the revenue requirement of distribution licensees. Section 65 of the Act provides that if the State Government requires the grant of any subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers in the tariff determined by the SERCs, the State Government shall pay to the concerned utility/licensees the full amount required to compensate the grant of subsidy. Thus, the matter of providing subsidy in tariff to a class of consumers is exclusively in the domain of the State Government.

Pending Hydel Projects of Kerala

44. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals of Hydel Projects from Kerala pending for clearance;

(b) the date of submission of each of these projects to the Union Government for necessary clearance; and

(c) the details of reasons for the delay in clearing these projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) No proposal of any H.E. Project from Kerala is presently pending for clearance in the Ministry of Power. However, proposals in respect of nine hydro-electric projects with total installed capacity of 906 MW have been returned to Kerala for resubmission. While six projects were returned as they were located in Cauvery region involve inter-state aspects were yet to be resolved, three projects have been returned due to major change in scope of works suggested by Central Electricity Authority/Central Water Commission. The revised Detailed Project Report of Athirapilly Hydro Electric Project (2 x 80 + 1x 3 = 163 MW) received on 2.9.2004 was returned on 10.9.2004 due to non-furnishing/tieing up of essential inputs/details/drawings. The details of the projects and the reasons for returning the proposals are given in the Statement.